

HISTORY AND THE PRESENT CONDITION OF  
THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES,  
NANZAN UNIVERSITY

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Center for American Studies, Nanzan University was established in 1976, after the United States Educational Commission in Japan (the Fulbright Commission) decided to give an institutional grant in order to encourage American Studies at Nanzan University in 1975.

*HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT*

In spite of the fact that there had been comparatively quite a number of American Studies specialists in the Chubu area and that a considerable number of courses of American Studies for the undergraduate students had been offered at the Department of British and American Studies at both Aichi Prefectural University and Nanzan University, there existed no central institute for collecting materials such as books and journals for American Studies in this area until around the mid-70's. Scholars as well as students in American Studies, therefore, had to rely upon research materials located in either Tokyo or Kyoto.

In 1974 when the Fulbright Commission announced a program of institutional grants to encourage American Studies at Japanese universities and colleges, Nanzan University applied for this grant with the purpose of establishing a Center for American Studies to collect research materials for the benefit of scholars of American Studies as well as to strengthen research and education of American Studies at Nanzan University.

In spring, 1975 the Fulbright Commission decided to give an institutional grant for three years to Nanzan University in total amount of ¥11,000,000 for the purpose of recruiting faculty members in fields related to American Studies, and of purchasing books and materials for American Studies. In connection with this grant the Fulbright Commission expected that Nanzan University would comply with the proposal to establish an intercollegiate institute for American Studies for the Chubu area. In response to this expectation the President and the Academic Council of the University established the Committee for American Studies, and this committee submitted two reports in regard to establishing a center or an institute for American Studies to the Academic Council.

In accordance with these reports the Committee for American Studies was dissolved late in 1975 so as to form constructively another committee, i.e., the Preparatory Committee for Establishing an Institute for American Studies. Early in 1976 this new committee drafted the Constitution for the Center for American Studies, Nanzan University, and it was immediately approved by the Academic Council. In May, 1976, in accordance with the Constitution, the Executive Committee for the Center for American Studies was organized, and future programs of collecting books and materials for American Studies as well as education and research of American Studies at Nanzan University were planned.

On October 5, 1976, with the approval of the Board of Directors and the Academic Council, the Regulations for Utilization of the Center for American Studies went into effect. Thus the Center officially started its operation on this day. At first the Center was located on the first floor of the First Faculty Office Building, but due to scarcity of space for further expansion, the Center Office and Library moved to the ground floor of the Institute for Religion and Culture on the Eastern side of Nanzan campus in February, 1978.

#### *OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES*

The Center for American Studies, Nanzan University has two main fields of activities: intracollegiate and intercollegiate. At Nanzan University courses on American Studies as area studies are mainly offered

in the Department of British and American Studies, Faculty of Foreign Languages. However, the University itself has rather a short history and American Studies courses have been taught at the Department only for the past ten years or so. Therefore the Constitution of the Center stipulates that the Center should have the function of "promoting and adjusting American Studies" as well as "encouraging education of American Studies" at Nanzan University. The former includes the following responsibilities: adjusting and arranging interfaculty research in American Studies and collecting Center Library materials on American Studies with an emphasis on acquiring books and journals in the fields of social sciences. The latter includes adjustment of university-wide curriculum in the field of American Studies. However, the final decision as to courses offered at each faculty is solely made at each faculty meeting. Therefore, the Executive Committee of the Center has only an advisory capacity of recommending appropriate arrangements of inter-faculty courses in American Studies, i.e., submitting an advisory plan of streamlining American Studies courses to each faculty meeting where these courses are offered.

As was repeatedly mentioned, however, courses related to American Studies are mainly offered at the Department of British and American Studies, Faculty of Foreign Languages, and at the same time most of the members of the Executive Committee of the Center are faculty members of the Department of British and American Studies and they are directly involved in teaching the courses in American Studies. Accordingly an advisory and adjustment curriculum plan discussed at the Executive Committee is almost always appreciated and accepted by the Department as well as the Faculty. In this sense promotion and adjustment of American Studies curriculum is a very important function of the Executive Committee in the University as a whole.

Another aspect of educational function of the Center is to sponsor American Studies lecture series with the help of the Fulbright Commission and American Center in Nagoya for the University students. Every year we sponsor three or four public lectures and students have enjoyed those lectures.

As to research activities, we do not adopt the system of employing a full-time research staff. Instead, the President of the University

selects from among the whole faculty of the University several members who are interested in and engaged in the specific aspect of American Studies and appoints them, with the recognition of the Academic Council, as members of the research staff of the Center. Therefore, no staff member is fully engaged in research at the Center, but each conducts his individual research besides teaching as full-time faculty member of the department he belongs to. At the same time the Executive Committee is planning to organize joint research projects or to submit common research themes to the staff under which each staff is going to take part in research of his own field. It is expected that this kind of joint research project will be expanded in the near future. Another activity is publication of results of individual or joint research. This present journal, *Nanzan Review of American Studies*, is the first result of our research. It is our plan to publish annually this journal and to invite contributions from scholars outside of the University.

In regard to the intercollegiate activities, building a good research library is the first concern of our effort, because, as mentioned above, the Center has an aim of establishing a resource material center for American Studies in the Chubu area. In order to avoid duplication of voluminous and costly materials, we have maintained close contact with Nagoya American Center and members of Nagoya American Studies Association. From the total sum of ¥11,000,000 granted by the Fulbright Commission from 1975 to 1977 ¥5,000,000 was earmarked for purchasing books and materials. The University provided matching funds of about ¥1,000,000 a year and we have so far invested about ¥10,000,000 for books and journals. Nagoya American Center has been quite cooperative with our aim of library building and they have already donated more than 800 copies of books and about 20 titles of journals withdrawn from their library stack. This has helped us very much in expanding our holdings.

This year the Japan-US Friendship Commission, with the cooperation of Asia Foundation decided that they would give a three-year grant for the book budget of Nanzan University to expand acquisition of books and journals for American Studies. This grant is \$5,000 for a year and including this grant the Center budget for books this year is ¥3,000,000,

and currently the Center Library holds about 3,500 books and 70 titles of journals. These materials are open to researchers as well as to the students.

Another activity includes cooperation with American Studies institutes outside of the University as well as scholars in the Chubu area. The core group of American Studies specialists in Chubu area consists of the members of Nagoya American Studies Association. This Association has a history of more than ten years and when the Center was established in 1976 the Association decided that the office of the Association should move to the office of the Center. Accordingly the Center arranges monthly meetings of the Association as well as provides meeting places for the Association members. The Center also arranges meetings of scholars from abroad with the members of Nagoya American Studies Association.

#### *UTILIZATION OF THE CENTER*

Center for American Studies, Nanzan University is located on the ground floor of the Institute for Culture and Religion on the campus of Nanzan University. Office hours are as follows: 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday; 10:00 am to noon, Saturdays. It is closed on Sundays and National Holidays and during Summer and Winter Vacations.

Books, journals and materials of the Center can be checked out in accordance with the Regulations of Utilization of Nanzan University Library. However, the Center Library is in principle open to the public and utilization cards are issued upon request. Undergraduate students are requested to show letters of recommendation by seminar directors or appropriate instructors. Books can be loaned according to inter-library loan system.

Inquire at:

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